

PUBLIC HEARING ON WATER RATE INCREASE: NOVEMBER 17, 2009

Ongoing drought and environmental restrictions on the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is impacting our water supply here in Southern California. San Diegans are stepping up with an impressive 13.9 percent reduction in water consumption from this time last year. We continue to find new ways to conserve and explore new water supplies through the Indirection Potable Reuse Demonstration project.

City Council will hold a public hearing on November 17 to consider a proposed water rate increase. San Diego receives approximately 90 percent of its water supply from the County Water Authority (CWA), which in turn receives the majority of its water supply from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Metropolitan raised its rates effective September, and as a result the County Water Authority is increasing its rates to cover increased costs for its own infrastructure, operations and maintenance and what it pays to purchase water from Metropolitan. Because the City must recover the costs for water charges, increased charges are proposed to be passed through to City water customers. The increased rates would be effective January 1, 2010.

Proposed water rate increases:

- Base Fee: \$0.12 increase per equivalent dwelling unit based upon meter size and
- Commodity Rate: across-the-board 10.60 percent increase based upon consumption

This would mean a 7.75 percent (\$4.73) increase in the current water bill for the average single family dwelling customer using 14 HCF per month (\$61.03 to \$65.76 per month).

A public hearing date on the proposed increase is set for November 17. Water customers will receive more information in the mail, separate from the bimonthly water bill.